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Date: Oct 17, 2018

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FM [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/NOFORN/WNINTEL/ORCON~~
SUBJ: THIS IS IR [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. (U) COUNTRY: ~~ARGENTINA (AR)~~ [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. ~~(C)~~ TITLE: ARGENTINE MILITARY-POSSIBLE CHANGE IN JUNTA MEMBERSHIP
4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: N/A
5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 790312
6. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 790312
7. (U) DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: 790312, BUENOS AIRES
8. (U) REFERENCES: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. (U) ASSESSMENT:
10. (U) ORIGINATOR:
11. (U) REQUEST EVALUATION: OMIT
12. (U) PREPARING OFFICER: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

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13. (U) APPROVING AUTHORITY: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

14. (U) SOURCE: [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. (U) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ~~DIRC-NO NOFORN AND OTHER CAVEATS USED TO PROTECT SOURCES AND TO PRECLUDE RELEASE OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.~~

16. ~~(C/NOFORN/WNINTEL/ORCON)~~ [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) HAS RELATED A NUMBER OF INDICATORS WHICH HE FEELS MAY BE PRECURSORS FRO A CHANGE IN JUNTA MEMBERSHIP DUE TO THE NAMING OF A NEW ARGENTINE NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF. ADMIRAL LAMBRUSCHINI, CURRENTLY THE NAVY CINC, IS REPORTED TO BE STILL AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF HIS DAUGHTER DUE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN 7808 (SEE IR [redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

22. ~~(C/NOFORN/WNINTEL/ORCON)~~ DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN/WNINTEL/ORCON)~~ [redacted] THERE IS AN AIR OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE NAVY STAFF HQ. HIS ASSERTION THAT THE CINC, ADM LAMBRUSCHINI, MAY NOT BE TOTALLY COMMITTED TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WAS LINKED TO THE DEATH OF ADM LAMBRUSCHINI'S DAUGHTER. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NEXT SENIOR ADMIRAL IN THE NAVY, VADM ANTONIO VANEK (CHIEF OF ARGENTINE NAVY STAFF) IS APPARENTLY NET WELL THOUGHT OF BY HIS FELLOW ADMIRALS. NUMEROUS ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICERS HAVE TOLD [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) THAT THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S MISMANAGEMENT OF UNIDENTIFIED STAFF FUNCTIONS (POSSIBLY RELATED TO PERSONNEL & RETIREMENTS) WERE CHARACTERISTICS SEEN EARLIER WHEN HE WAS IN COMMAND OF OPERATINF FORCES.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN/WNINTEL/)~~ THE ARGENTINE NAVY STAFF HAS RECENTLY HAD SEVERAL RETIREMENTS THAT WERE PLANNED BUT LATER CANCELLED. [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) IN DECEMBER OF 1978 THAT RADM MALUGANI (AUSTRAL REGION COMMANDER AND SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER ON TIERRA DEL FUEGO WHERE THE ARGENTINE MARINES WERE NEARLY TOTALLY DEPLOYED FOR EXPECTED COMBAT) WOULD RETIRE; HOWEVER, RADM MALUGANI IS NOW APPARENTLY TO REMAIN ON ACTIVE DUTY AS DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION (USN CHIEF OF NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING EQUIVILENT). ALSO RADM ESTEVEZ WHO HAD BEEN ACTING OPERATIONS OFFICER DN THE NAVY STAFF DURING THE TENSE NOV-DEC 1978 TIME FRAME WAS MENTIONED AS RETIRING [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) BUT REMAINS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH EXACT ASSIGNMENT UNKNOWN. [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) HE HAD NO LOGICAL ANSWER FOR THE QUESTION [redacted] ABOUT WHY TWO OFFICERS WITH MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NEAR CONFLICT WERE TO BE RETIRED. [redacted] [redacted] Sec. 3.3(b) (1) VADM ANANAVA, DIRECTOR OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AND NUMBER FOUR IN SENIORITY, HAD BEEN SLATED FOR RETIREMENT BUT WAS NOW TO STAY ON ACTIVE DUTY.

3. ~~(C/NOFORN/WNINTEL/ORCON)~~ [redacted] SEEN CHANGES OF A NAVY Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

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Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

COMMANDER IN CHIEF BEFORE AND RELATES THE SAME TYPE OF MARSHALLING OF "INTEREST GROUPS" IS GOING ON NOW. HE SUGGESTED THAT AN OFFICER MIGHT BE RECALLED FROM RETIREMENT TO ACT AS NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF SHOULD ADM LAMBRUSCHINI DECIDE TO STEP DOWN AND VADM VANEK NOT BE THE HEIR-DESIGNATE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER NAVY SENIORS.

[redacted] COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN) WHINTEL/ORCON)~~

A CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB COULD BE VADM MENDIA WHO RECENTLY (7901 ESTIMATED) RETIRED. HE IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED AND FORCEFUL OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN SENT OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO THE INTER AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD AS THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION DURING 1977 AND 1978. VADM MENDIA IS WELL THOUGHT OF BY MOST WHO KNOW HIM--HIS FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND NEW APPROACH TO JUNTA MATTERS COULD BE OF INTEREST SHOULD WINDS OF CHANGE SENSED [redacted] BLOW UP TO BECOME A GALE. Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

[redacted] MET VADM MENDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME ON 790912 AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR THE VISITING INTER AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE. VAOM MENDIA [redacted] CON- Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

VEYED THE IMPRESSION HE IS MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN ARGENTINE NAVY AFFAIRS. HE INITIATED AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE AMBASSADOR CASTRO ON 790315 AND [redacted] HE HAD LUNCH DATES WITH ADM LAMBRUSCHINI 790318 AND WITH VADM VANEK 790320. Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

B. ~~(C)~~ FOR ANOTHER [redacted] VIEW ON HOW THE SELECTION OF SERVICE CHIEFS IS CURRENTLY ACCOMPLISHED, SEE Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

IR [redacted] THIS EARLIER REPORT MAY PROVIDE SOME REINFORCEMENT OF THIS IR. (b)(3):10 USC 424

C. (U) ~~THIS REPORT TRANSMITTED ORCON, WILL CONFIRM OR REFUTE INFO CONTAINED HEREIN ASAP.~~

EMBASSY COORDINATED. ~~DECL/REVW 13 MAR 1999~~

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